

## Williams, Danisha

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**From:** Virgil, Franchesca  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:08 PM  
**Subject:** Division - Open Records Act Request #35053

*This is the second request. Please be mindful of the request numbers when responding or providing records. They are very similar. Thank you!*

*Franchesca Virgil*

*Paralegal*

*Office of General Counsel*

Georgia Department of Community Health

2 Peachtree Street, 40th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-463-5291 Phone

770-344-5759 Fax

[fvirgil@dch.ga.gov](mailto:fvirgil@dch.ga.gov)

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Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/gadept.communityhealth>

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**From:** 66411-16197457@requests.muckrock.com <66411-16197457@requests.muckrock.com>

**Sent:** Monday, December 24, 2018 3:28 PM

**To:** Open Records Request <openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov>

**Subject:** Georgia Open Records Act Request: PruittHealth Audits (Department of Community Health)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Department of Community Health

ORA Office

40th Floor

2 Peachtree Street

Atlanta, GA 30303

December 24, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act, I hereby request the following records:

All available records of audits conducted by your office from December 1, 2013, to the date this request is filled, of PruittHealth and any PruittHealth facility, including but not limited to: nursing, rehabilitation, hospice, care management, home health, or other facilities.

Secondly, all available records of audits conducted by your office from December 1, 2013 to the date this request is filled of The Oaks Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers, The Oaks Assisted Living Communities, the Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center, Laurel Park Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, or Peachtree Christian Hospice.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 3 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Terry Brown

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): [66411-16197457@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:66411-16197457@requests.muckrock.com)

Upload documents directly: [https://www.muckrock.com/accounts/agency\\_login/department-of-community-health-7629/pruitthealth-audits-department-of-community-health-66411/?uuid-login=9b85f288-23e9-44b6-b5cc-25d9a17a726b&email=OpenRecordsRequest%40dch.ga.gov#agency-reply](https://www.muckrock.com/accounts/agency_login/department-of-community-health-7629/pruitthealth-audits-department-of-community-health-66411/?uuid-login=9b85f288-23e9-44b6-b5cc-25d9a17a726b&email=OpenRecordsRequest%40dch.ga.gov#agency-reply)

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

**MuckRock News**

DEPT MR 66411

411A Highland Ave

Somerville, MA 02144-2516

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## Williams, Danisha

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**From:** Virgil, Franchesca  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** Division: Open Records Act Request #35052

*Good afternoon,*

*Please see the request listed below and advise if you or any member of your team maintains responsive records. I have a similar request from this same requestor that I will be sending momentarily.*

*Franchesca Virgil*

*Paralegal*  
*Office of General Counsel*  
Georgia Department of Community Health  
2 Peachtree Street, 40th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-463-5291 Phone  
770-344-5759 Fax  
[fvirgil@dch.ga.gov](mailto:fvirgil@dch.ga.gov)

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**From:** 66407-89732695@requests.muckrock.com <66407-89732695@requests.muckrock.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 21, 2018 4:04 PM  
**To:** Open Records Request <openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** Georgia Open Records Act Request: PruittHealth Correspondences

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Department of Community Health  
ORA Office  
40th Floor  
2 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

December 21, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:



Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act, I hereby request the following records:

Any and all records of correspondence or communications (written and email) from September 2014 to September 2015 between Georgia Department of Community Health Offices and employees of any PruittHealth facilities, including but not limited to: nursing centers, rehabilitation centers, corporate offices, or other care centers.

Secondly, any and all records of correspondence or communications (written and email) from December 2013 to the date this request is filled between Georgia Department of Community Health Offices and employees, caregivers, physicians, or representatives of any PruittHealth facilities regarding managed care.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 3 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Terry Brown

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 66407-89732695@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly: [https://www.muckrock.com/accounts/agency\\_login/department-of-community-health-7629/pruitthealth-correspondences-66407/?email=OpenRecordsRequest%40dch.ga.gov&uuid-login=4d4ccd53-93a6-4a2b-9680-55940a2ceb35#agency-reply](https://www.muckrock.com/accounts/agency_login/department-of-community-health-7629/pruitthealth-correspondences-66407/?email=OpenRecordsRequest%40dch.ga.gov&uuid-login=4d4ccd53-93a6-4a2b-9680-55940a2ceb35#agency-reply)

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For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News

DEPT MR 66407

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Somerville, MA 02144-2516

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**From:** Neil Pruitt <NPruitt@pruitthealth.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:00 PM



**Pruitt**Health  
Committed to Caring



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**From:** Danisha Williams [mailto:[danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov)]

**To:** Neil Pruitt

**Subject:** FW: SOURCE meeting with GMCF, DCH and Provider Community (2nd)

1

Executive Confidential Assistant to Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner  
2 Peachtree Street, 40.53  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-656-7990 (Office Phone)  
[danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov)

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---

**From:** Danisha Williams

**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 12:30 PM

**To:** Danisha Williams; Hodges, Tarry; [npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com](mailto:npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com); Jerry Dubberly; Marcey Alter; Brian Dowd; [jhowell@ghca.info](mailto:jhowell@ghca.info); Dennis White

**Cc:** Danisha Williams

**Subject:** RE: SOURCE meeting with GMCF, DCH and Provider Community (2nd)

Update:

I am waiting on a few more people to respond to the second request, but no consensus yet. Thanks

## Danisha Williams

Department of Community Health Commissioner's Office  
Executive Confidential Assistant to Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner  
2 Peachtree Street, 40.53  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-656-7990 (Office Phone)  
[danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov)

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---

**From:** Danisha Williams

**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 9:28 AM

**To:** Danisha Williams; Hodges, Tarry; [npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com](mailto:npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com); Jerry Dubberly; Marcey Alter; Brian Dowd; [jhowell@ghca.info](mailto:jhowell@ghca.info); Dennis White

**Subject:** RE: SOURCE meeting with GMCF, DCH and Provider Community (2nd)

Good Morning:

According to the responses that I received, none of the original dates and times revealed availability for all of the required attendees. Below are additional dates and times. Please respond via email and indicate all dates and times that you are available. Thank you in advance.

\*SOURCE providers as a reminder please provide some cases of concern prior to the meeting to serve as a point of discussion.

2/6: 10-11am, 10:30-11:30am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/10: 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/12: 11-12pm, 11:30-12:30pm, 12:30-1:30pm  
2/17: 2/6: 10-11am, 10:30-11:30am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/18: 2/6: 10-11am, 10:30-11:30am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm  
2/19: 10-11am, 10:30-11:30am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/20: 10-11am, 10:30-11:30am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/24: 11-12pm, 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm  
2/25: 12:30-1:30pm, 1-2pm, 1:30-2:30pm  
2/26: 12-1pm, 12:30-1:30pm

## Danisha Williams

Department of Community Health Commissioner's Office  
Executive Confidential Assistant to Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner  
2 Peachtree Street, 40.53  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
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**From:** Danisha Williams

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 12:31 PM

**To:** Hodges, Tarry; [npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com](mailto:npruitt@uhs-pruitt.com); Jerry Dubberly; Marcey Alter; Brian Dowd; [jhowell@ghca.info](mailto:jhowell@ghca.info); Dennis White

**Cc:** Danisha Williams

**Subject:** Re: SOURCE meeting with GMCF, DCH and Provider Community

Good Afternoon:

There may be a need to look at additional dates in order to coordinate this meeting. January 21st-23rd are not feasible to anyones schedule. I will provide additional dates and time this week to choose from. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 14, 2014, at 10:51 AM, "Danisha Williams" <[danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning:

Per Commissioner Reese, I am attempting to schedule a SOURCE meeting with GMCF, DCH and provider community that will be held at our office. Please take a moment to look at the possible meeting times below and let me know all the dates and times that work for you. Thanks.



**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>:**

10-11am

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

1-2pm

**Jan 23:**

2-3pm

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>:**

11:30-12:30pm

12:30-1:30pm

1:30-2:30pm

**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>:**

12:30-1:30pm

1:30-2:30pm

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>:**

11-12pm

12-1:00pm

1-2:00pm

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup>:**

12-1:00pm

12:30-1:30pm

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

10:30-11:30am

11-12:00pm

11:30-12:30pm

12-1:00pm

1:30-2:30 pm

**Feb 5th:**

10:30-11:30am

11-12:00pm

11:30-12:30pm

12-1:00pm

1:30-2:30 pm

**Feb 6th:**

10:30-11:30am

11-12:00pm

11:30-12:30pm

12-1:00pm

1:30-2:30 pm

**Danisha Williams**

Department of Community Health Commissioner's Office  
Executive Confidential Assistant to Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner  
2 Peachtree Street, 40.53  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-656-7990 (Office Phone)  
[danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov)

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## Williams, Danisha

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**Subject:** PruittHealth Meeting: Contact Person: Alison Hughes Phone: (678) 533-6727  
**Location:** 6th Floor Large Conference Room  
**Start:** Wed 2/18/2015 2:00 PM  
**End:** Wed 2/18/2015 2:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Reese, Clyde  
**Required Attendees:** Alison Hughes  
**Resources:** 6th Floor Large Conference Room



DCH Meeting  
Request\_Clyde R...

\*Note: Please be aware that during General Assembly, meetings are subject to change on short or no notice.

Meeting Location: 2 Peachtree St, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303  
6th Floor Commissioner's Conference Room

**\*Please allot time to enter through security\***



## Williams, Danisha

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**From:** Alison Westmoreland <ahughes@pruitthealth.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 12:59 PM  
**To:** Williams, Danisha  
**Subject:** Meeting Request with PruittHealth  
**Attachments:** DCH Meeting Request\_Clyde Reese\_2.5.16.docx

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached meeting request. Let me know if either of these dates are available with the Commissioner's schedule.

Thank you in advance for your help.

**Alison Westmoreland**  
Executive Assistant II  
PruittHealth

**Phone:** (678) 533-6727  
**Fax:** (678) 533-6620  
**Email:** [ahughes@pruitthealth.com](mailto:ahughes@pruitthealth.com)



[pruitthealth.com](http://pruitthealth.com)

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**MEETING REQUEST  
FOR COMMISSIONER CLYDE REESE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**DATE REQUESTED:** 2/5/16

**DATE SCHEDULED:**

**CONTACT/PERSON REQUESTING MEETING:** Chris Downing / Alison Westmoreland

**ORGANIZATION:** PruittHealth

**TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED (please list or attach an agenda):**

Parkwood and CON's

**PARTICIPANTS (list all participants and their titles):**

Neil L. Pruitt, Jr. / Chairman and CEO  
Chris Downing / VP of Governmental Affairs

**POSSIBLE DATES AND TIMES (list several)**

**Either:**

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 a.m. OR  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 a.m.

**PHONE NUMBER:** 678-533-6727

**FAX NUMBER:** 678-533-6620

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** ahughes@pruitthealth.com

Please e-mail or fax this information to [dewing@dch.ga.gov](mailto:dewing@dch.ga.gov) or (404) 651-6880





Presented by: Kelly Gonzalez, Chief Division of Health IT  
and Georgia's State Health IT Coordinator

Date: 3/13/2014





GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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## Health Information Technology

# What is Health Information Technology?

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# What is Health Information Technology?

- Set of technologies that makes it possible for providers and patients/consumers to better manage one's care through secure use and exchange of health information.
  - Electronic Health Records (EHR)
  - Health Information Exchanges
  - Personal Health Records (PHR)
  - Mobile health apps, “smart” tech
    - ePrescribing
    - TeleHealth
    - Digital health devices
    - Health informatics, and more



# What is Health Information Technology?

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  - Personal Health Records (PHR)
  - Mobile health apps, “smart” tech
  - ePrescribing
  - TeleHealth
  - Digital health devices
  - Health informatics, and more
- **What is the purpose of Health Information Exchange?**

To close the patient information gap across care settings by electronically connecting disparate systems and data sources to support improved quality of care, better health outcomes, and reductions in cost.

# DCH Division of Health IT

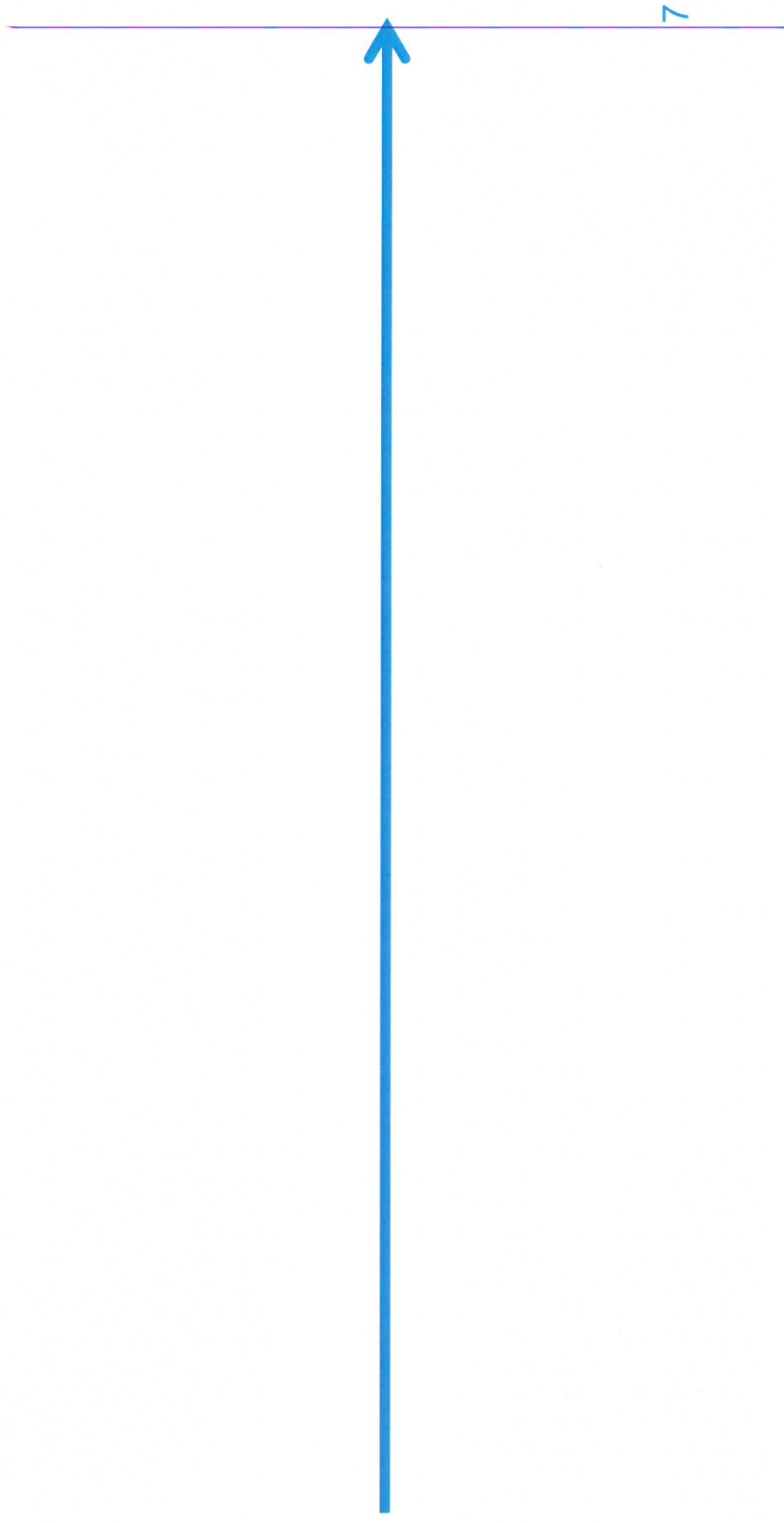
- The Division facilitates various aspects of the Health IT infrastructure throughout Georgia, including:
  - *Strategic planning* for health IT adoption by providers and patients
  - *Technology and policy development* of the Georgia statewide health information exchange network and connection to the nationwide network
  - *Promotion* of the overall statewide health IT infrastructure in Georgia



# DCH Division of Health IT

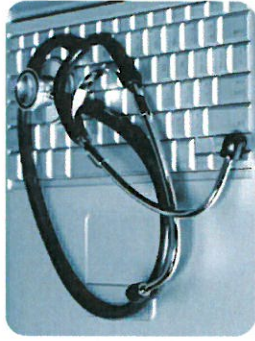
- **The Division facilitates various aspects of the Health IT infrastructure throughout Georgia, including:**
  - *Strategic planning* for health IT adoption by providers and patients
  - *Technology and policy development* of the Georgia statewide health information exchange network and connection to the nationwide network
  - *Promotion* of the overall statewide health IT infrastructure in Georgia
- **Our Mission is to advance healthcare quality while reducing costs**
  - Improving access to information to *support coordination of care* and among hospitals, labs, and healthcare organizations to better manage patient care
  - Promoting the early detection, prevention, and management of chronic illness through *use of health information technology*
  - Achieving *improvements in care efficiency* and population health

# Georgia's Health IT Continuum

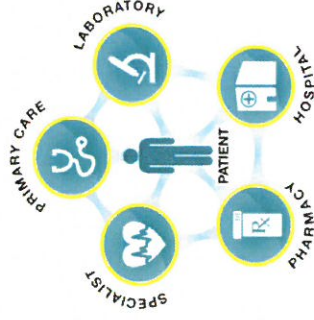




# Georgia's Health IT Continuum



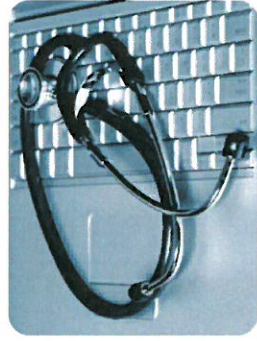
Electronic Health Records  
ePrescribing  
Digital health tools



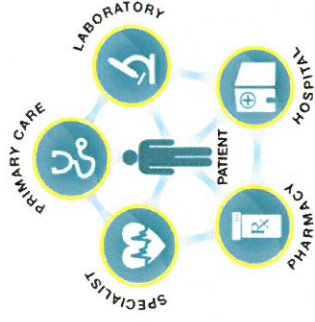
Widespread provider  
connectivity



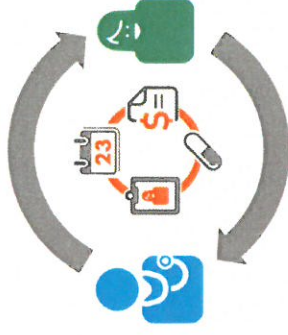
# Georgia's Health IT Continuum



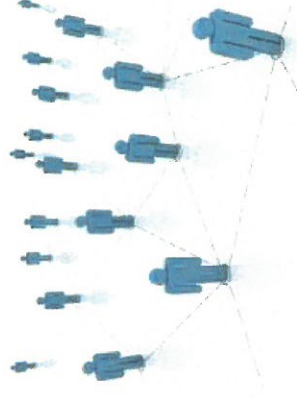
Electronic Health Records  
ePrescribing  
Digital health tools



Widespread provider  
connectivity



Patient Engagement



Population Health  
Management

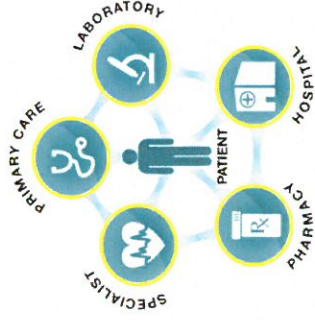




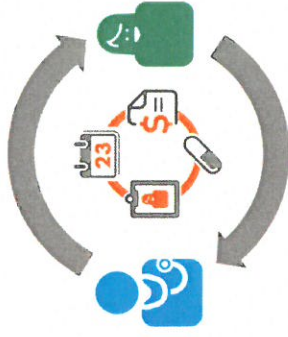
# Georgia's Health IT Continuum



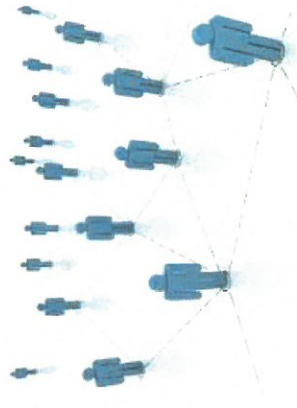
**Electronic Health Records  
ePrescribing  
Digital health tools**



**Widespread provider  
connectivity**



**Patient Engagement**



**Population Health  
Management**



**Strengthen privacy and  
data protections**

**Support public-private  
health IT collaborations**

**Evaluate effectiveness of  
health IT initiatives**



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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## Division of Health IT: Status Update



# Georgia Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program

- **Program Details**

- Purpose: Incentivize Medicaid providers to adopt and meaningful use certified electronic health records
- Program began in September 2011, ends in 2022
- Incentive funding is 100% federally funded



- **To-date**

- Program has disbursed more than \$200 million to Georgia Medicaid providers
- 128 eligible hospitals and 2519 eligible professionals
- 72% of Georgia providers have EHRs, above the national average of 68%

# Georgia Health Information Exchange Network



- DCH has facilitated the development and implementation of Georgia's statewide health information exchange network.
- DCH collaborated with the Georgia Health Information Network, Inc. (GaHIN), a non-profit organization, to establish the statewide HIE
  - GaHIN is a Network of Networks Model. Health systems and regional HIEs connect hospitals, physician practices and other providers to GaHIN
  - Not a central repository of clinical data. Information remains with the treating provider and only flows when there is authorization
  - Established governance and policy framework to support Network
  - DCH will transition the HIE operations and technology to GaHIN in 2014



# GaHIN Board of Directors



## Executive Committee

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CEO  
Alliant/GMCF

**James R. (Jim) Morrow, MD (Vice Chairman)**  
President and CEO  
Morrow Family Medicine

**Duane A Kavka (Secretary)**  
Executive Director  
Georgia Association for Primary Health Care, Inc.

**Kelly Gonzalez, MS**  
Chief, Division of Health IT  
State Health IT Coordinator  
Georgia Department of Community Health

**Denise Hines, Ph.D**  
Executive Director  
Georgia Health Information Network

**Donna W. Hyland**  
President and CEO  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

**Dominic H. Mack, MD, MBA**  
Deputy Director of the National Center for Primary Care  
Executive Medical Director/Principal Investigator GA-HITEC  
Morehouse School of Medicine

**Clyde L. Reese, III Esq.**  
Commissioner  
Georgia Department of Community Health

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President and CEO  
Archbold Health Services

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CIO  
Emory Healthcare of Atlanta

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Cobb & Douglas Community Service Boards

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Southern Company

**Paula Guy, RN**  
CEO  
Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth

**David Hefner, MPA**  
Executive VP for Clinical Affairs/CEO,  
Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center

**Jon Howell**  
President and CEO  
Georgia Health Care Association

**Warren S. Hutchings, MD**  
Chairman  
Georgia State Medical Association

**Morgan Kendrick**  
President  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia

**J. Alan Kent, FACHE**  
President and CEO  
Meadows Regional Medical Center

**Carol A. Ludwig, RPH**  
Pharmacy Chief  
Department of Veterans Affairs

**Deven Mattheus, MPM**  
Chief Clinical Integration Officer  
Northeast Georgia Health System  
HealthConnection HIE

**J. Patrick O'Neal, MD**  
Director, Health Protection  
Georgia Department of Public Health

**Glenn E. Pearson, FACHE**  
Executive Vice President  
Georgia Hospital Association

**Katie Rogers**  
Governor's Health Policy Advisor  
State of Georgia

**Thomas E. Sittnick**  
Director of the Office of Health Services  
Department of Corrections

**Jeffery White, MD**  
CEO  
White Pediatrics & North Georgia Clinical Research Center

**Cindy Zelden**  
Executive Director  
Georgians for a Healthy Future



# Support for GaHIN



## BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### A COMMENDATION

**WHEREAS:** The Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) is a valued contributor to the overall well-being of our state's citizens as a public-private collaborative that seeks to improve health care coordination and the care of all patients through a state-wide health information exchange that will connect hospitals, clinics, labs, regional health information exchanges, and other health care related stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS:** Working alongside the Georgia Department of Community Health and the Georgia Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center, the GaHIN is helping to protect the health of patients in every corner of our state by forming the Georgia Health Information Exchange network, which will connect regional health information exchanges and allow for cost-effective and timely delivery of information; and

**WHEREAS:** In matters of health and physical well-being, information is vital to providing appropriate care. This secure exchange of clinical information will improve coordination, patient-centered care, the health status of our state, and managed care of individuals who deal with chronic health care needs; and

**WHEREAS:** The health of every Georgian is a priority of my administration. It is imperative that our state continues to search for cost-effective means of improving our health care system and quality of patient care; now

**THEREFORE:** I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby commend all those involved in the

### GEORGIA HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK


and support this beneficial tool as it helps to improve the medical care of our citizens.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2nd day of August, 2013.



*Nathan Deal*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:  
*Chris M. Raby*  
CHIEF OF STAFF



**Georgia State Medical Association, Inc.**  
720 Westview Drive, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30310-5405 • Telephone (404) 752-5564 • Fax: (404) 752-1024

August 1, 2013

Dennis L. White  
Chair, Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN)  
1455 Lincoln Parkway, Suite 800  
Atlanta, Georgia 30346  
[Dennis.white@gmhcf.org](mailto:Dennis.white@gmhcf.org)

Dear Dennis White:

The Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) is a network of networks closing the information gap and improving the quality of care across Georgia, helping physicians attain meaningful use, and connecting physicians to regional health information exchanges.

The mission of GaHIN is to facilitate a statewide HIN to improve healthcare coordination, reduce costs, and improve health information.

The Georgia State Medical Association (GSMA) is an organization of physicians within Georgia who practice inclusive medicine. We have been pleased to support GaHIN and its efforts to improve healthcare in Georgia.

*Warren S. Hutchings MD*

Warren S. Hutchings, M.D.  
Board Chair, Georgia State Medical Association

**A RESOLUTION**  
*by the Georgia Hospital Association*  
**Supporting**  
**The Georgia Health Information Network**  
July 9, 2013

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) is a public-private collaborative that seeks to improve health care coordination, reduce costs, and improve health information across the state of Georgia by facilitating a statewide health information exchange that will eventually connect hospitals, labs, clinicians, regional HIEs, and other health care stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, GaHIN is also one of a number of initiatives with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Georgia Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center to create a "seamless information" network in the Georgia HIE network. These initiatives will connect regional health information exchanges across the state to ensure proper delivery of the right data to the right place at the right time to patients receive a high quality, cost-effective, and efficient care;

**WHEREAS**, the current state of clinical information is not at a level that facilitates and provides an optimal experience of any meaningful effort to improve health care coordination, reduce costs, and the health status of the state, and to better manage the care of individuals with chronic health care needs while also reducing the associated costs;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Georgia Hospital Association, Board of Trustees would like to support the GaHIN, and in effort to create a statewide health information network, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of GaHIN, provided that management to improve the quality and lower the cost of health care in Georgia.

**ADOPTED** unanimously by the Georgia Hospital Association Board of Trustees on the 26th day of July, 2013.



# Capacity Building and Health IT Innovation

- DCH distributed nearly **\$6 million in capacity building and health IT innovation grants and contracts** to support provider connectivity and statewide network advancement
  - Chatham HealthLink
  - Georgia Association for Primary Health Care (FQHCs)
  - GRACHIE
  - Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
  - Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
  - Georgia Department of Families & Children's Services (DFCS)
  - Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)
  - Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN)
  - Georgia Institute of Technology
  - Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth
  - HealtheConnection
  - Pediatric Healthcare Improvement Coalition (PHIC)
  - West Georgia HIE

# GaHIN Products and Services

## GEORGIA DIRECT

- Simple messaging service that enables providers to securely transmit patient health data to other authorized clinicians
- Launched in June 2012
- Used by nearly 3000 providers
- No cost to providers

## GEORGIA CONNECTED CARE

- Query-based exchange allows providers to use their connected EHR to search for their patient's health information at the point of care
- Launched in August 2013
- No cost in first 3 years for directly connected organizations



# Building Momentum → Movement

## GEORGIA CONNECTED CARE

### Connection Progress

- **August 2013:** Technology infrastructure and Georgia Medicaid
- **October 2013:** Bi-directional GRITS (Public Health Immunizations)
- **February 2014:** Emory Healthcare and Grady Health System; application for Nationwide Network approved
- **March 2014:** (Georgia Families 360°) DFCS, DJJ, Amerigroup, *Patient Profile* available to all Medicaid providers via MMIS web portal
- **April 2014:** Public Health SendSS and Electronic Lab Reporting
- **Q2 2014:** Archibold HIE (ArchHIE) & GA Partnership for TeleHealth (GPT)

# Building Momentum → Movement

## EARLY ADOPTERS:

- **Amerigroup (CMO)**
- **ArchHIE**
- Blue Cross Blue Shield GA
- Chatham HealthLink
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- **Emory Healthcare**
- GAPHC
- **Georgia Medicaid (DCH)**
- **Georgia Public Health**
- Georgia DBHDD & CSBs
- **Georgia DHS/DFCS**
- **Georgia DJJ**
- **Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth**
- Georgia Tech Health Services
- GRACHIE
- **Grady Health System**
- HealtheConnection
- Kaiser Permanente
- Microsoft HealthVault
- **Nationwide Network (eHealthWay)**
- PeachState (CMO)
- Wellcare (CMO)
- West Georgia HIE
- Various EHR vendors

## ENGAGED PARTIES

- Aetna/Coventry
- Athens Regional
- CIGNA
- Piedmont
- Phoebe Putney
- Rite Aid
- Tenet
- **UHS Pruitt**
- United Health Care
- Wellstar





GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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## Next Generation of Health IT



# Health IT Initiatives

- **Public Health**
  - Identify use cases and explore the impact of connecting DPH technologies to GaHIN to improve care coordination for vulnerable populations
- **Georgia Pediatric Asthma Initiative**
  - Examine the impact of specific clinical protocols in Pediatric Asthma and the use of health IT with providers, patients and caregivers to reduce ED visits, hospitalizations & school absenteeism
- **Renal Transplant Initiative**
  - Use *GeorgiaDirect* to significantly reduce time for patient referrals for transplant services
- **Georgia Families 360°**
  - Part 2: Enhanced connection for DFCS, DJJ, DBHDD, and Amerigroup
  - Examine the impact of enhanced connectivity and use of digital self-care tools

# **Next Generation of Health IT in Georgia**

## **4 AREAS OF FOCUS**

The DCH Division of Health IT aims to use technology to improve the quality of health care while reducing costs

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### 1 PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

#### Improve Individual Health Status and Outcomes

Leverage powerful health IT tools giving individuals access to and involvement in their health decisions, resulting in better self-care, disease prevention, and wellness.

- Build enhanced Medicaid Member online portal and evaluate Medicaid Member user experience



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Improve patient access to care by facilitating adoption and implementation of health IT approaches that promote innovative encounters across the healthcare system.

- Telehealth, mobile ,and “smart” technologies

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#### Reduce Cost & Improve Proper Service Utilization

Develop methods/standards for harmonizing clinical and claims data, giving providers and policymakers greater insight to meet the complex needs of the high-risk, sickest and most expensive Medicaid members

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### 4 DATA COORDINATION & EXCHANGE

#### Reduce Splintered Coordination of Care

Close the patient information gap among healthcare providers by identifying and promoting efficient, secure methods for health information exchange. Facilitate electronic reporting of quality measures.

- Leverage connections between Georgia providers and the statewide Network to continuously improve care coordination



## Kelly Gonzalez, MS

Chief, Division of Health IT

Georgia Department of Community Health

Georgia State Health IT Coordinator

[kegonzalez@ddch.ga.gov](mailto:kegonzalez@ddch.ga.gov)

For more information about GaHIN, visit [www.gahin.org](http://www.gahin.org)